



Msst Galveston TIMES

7707 harborside dr Galveston, tx 77554

(409) 941-8100

Quarterly News Letter

Commanding officer'

I've just come back from the Chief's Call To Initiation in Santa Fe, TX and got to see the recently promoted EMC Galvan and more recently arrived GMC Shull go through the ceremony. It's great to look around and see everyone growing professionally and personally through their experiences here. BM2 Partin and MK3 Marshall recently graduated from Navy Dive School (the only easy day was yesterday!) and now bring us up to a level where we can actually conduct our own dive operations! Way to go! I don't want to spoil it for you but inside this issue you'll see more of our Coasties being recognized for doing great work - from the Enlisted Person of the Quarter to the Iron Sailors. This leads me to realize that behind each of these great individuals is another great team; wives, husbands, mothers, fathers, and the 'rest of the family'. We've been through a lot since August 31st and now a large portion of the crew is on the road over the holidays. I want to thank you for the endless support you've given not only to your Coastie but to us. We've been able to get out and get the job done and its helped more people than we could imagine. Our Ombudsman, Stephanie Pipkin, continues to fill the issues with things to see and do around Texas. I encourage everyone to look into these and take the time to get out and do something for yourself. Some of them might involve leaving the island! I know I will have to leave the island a few times a year but in the meantime, for those of us that like to stay on Galveston, www.thegrand.com still has some interesting attractions coming. Looks like we have paintball scheduled on 9 December and the Holiday Party on the 8th. Please accept my apologies, I will miss meeting many of you at the Holiday Party due to a last minute change in dates for a CO's conference and meeting with the Atlantic Area Commander, VADM Crea.

Happy Holidays to everyone!
LCDR Erik Leuenberger

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Behind every good Coastie is a great spouse! This may sound like just a cliché or a blurb on a bumper sticker at the Exchange, but it's 100% correct. Nearing my 20th

year in the Coast Guard, I know this to be true from personal experience. Each time I've had to leave—a month here, four months there—my wife, Shannon, has had to hold it all together. Although she did an outstanding job, it still was not pleasant for either of us. This was especially true when I was gone during the holidays.

That said, I wanted to take a moment over this Christmas season, to express my appreciation for all you do for this organization, as spouses and family members! I don't have to tell you that the Coast Guard is not a 9 to 5 job; you know that firsthand. But what I will tell you is that having strong support from home makes our jobs a lot more bearable. So, thank you—and always know that your contributions to this nation's safety and security from home are just as important as ours in the field. Have a safe and merry Christmas! *Steve Garcia*

Command SENIOR chief'

Greetings, I'm MKCS Mike Krump, MSST Galveston's Command Senior Chief. Serving in this capacity, I act as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, promoting balance and alignment between the needs of the enlisted workforce and command goals. By maintaining an open line of communication between the Commanding Officer, the Command Master Chief at Atlantic Area, and enlisted personnel, I do my best to inform all hands of pertinent issues, including command policies, pay and allowances, morale, and incentive programs. It's one of those jobs that can be both demanding and rewarding at the same time. Now, I'd like to pass along a few items of interest.

Recently, ET1 Dan Pipkin was honored as the deserving recipient of MSST Galveston's Enlisted Person of the Quarter. While the competition was stiff, the title is given to the person who demonstrates nothing short of exceptional in their performance of duties. In ET1 Pipkin's case, when faced with the challenges of preparing for the relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, he was quick to step up to the plate. Without going into all of the details, he was highly instrumental in helping turn these difficult

situations into much more tolerable scenes. Nice job, Dan!



ET1 Pipkin awarded Enlisted person of the Quarter

On November 1st, one of our members hit a milestone in their career. EM1 Dave Galvan was advanced to Chief Petty Officer, which was earned through years of hard work and dedicated service. Congratulations, Chief Galvan!



EM1 Galvan's promotion to EMC

Now that things have settled down a bit following a challenging (to say the least) hurricane season, allow me to shift focus toward the upcoming holiday season. MSST Galveston will be holding its annual Christmas party on the evening of December 8th at the Gilruth Center on the NASA complex. Social hour will begin at 6:30, with dinner served at 7:00. The cost for E-6 and below will be \$10, and E-7 and above will be \$15. Direct any questions regarding the party toward ITC Dennis James, who can be reached at (409) 941-8113.

That'll about do it for this newsletter. Hope to see you all at the Christmas party.

MKCS Mike Krumpke

Educational services officer

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Coast Guard exchange System Scholarship

The Coast Guard Exchange System (CGES) Established a scholarship program to provide scholarships to students who are dependants of active duty and reserve Coast Guard members, civilian NAF and APF employees, and Coast Guard Auxiliarists that are embarking on undergraduate collage/university studies. A \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to the most outstanding applicant, and two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to the two runners-up. Scholarships are awarded on a one-time basis. Scholarships will be based upon academic achievement, accomplishments and interests, and, participation and demonstrated leadership in both school-oriented and community/volunteer activities.

For anyone interested the following eligibility requirements must be met:

1. Verification eligibility will be through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) for dependant children of active duty and reserve Coast Guard members. Eligibility for dependants of civilian employees (NAF & APF) and Coast Guard Auxiliarists will be determined by review of the members 2004 federal tax return (names, signatures, and dates must be clear and legible. Financial data may be blacked out).
2. The applicant must be in the last year of high school or home schooling and scheduled to graduate and attend college full-time during the subsequent year. Those who have already graduated are not eligible to apply.
3. Students must plan to attend an accredited college or university for undergraduate studies. Scholarships will not be awarded for participation in non-academic and/or graduate programs. Students accepting appointments to USAFA, USNA, USMA, USCGA, or USMMA are not eligible.

Applications must be submitted to the CGES Scholarship Committee, Coast Guard Exchange System Headquarters, 870 Greenbrier Circle, Suite 502, Chesapeake, VA 23320-2681, and postmarked **NO LATER THAN** the application deadline of 28 February 2006. No extensions or exemptions to this deadline will be made. Upon receipt, the eligibility of each applicant will be reviewed and validated. Incomplete applications, and those pertaining to individuals determined to be ineligible, will not be processed. It is the responsibility

of each applicant to ensure that all documents are submitted by their high school, testing agencies, and/or any other organizations. Applicants will not be notified if their application is not complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered and will not be returned. In addition to the completed application, the following documents should be submitted:

1. The official academic transcript to include the first semester of the senior year (arrangements are to be made with the applicant's high school to submit the student's academic transcript directly to the CGES Scholarship Committee at the above address. The transcript should reflect the applicant's class ranking).
2. Home Schooled applicants should submit the current year-end standardized test results such as Iowa Basic Skills Test, Stanford Achievement Test, or such test if available, and S.A.T. or A.C.T. scores if taken.
3. The applicant may submit a photocopy of their S.A.T. or A.C.T. scores or opt to have the testing agency forward the results directly to the CGES Scholarship Committee at the above address.
4. A short essay not to exceed one typewritten page, explaining what the applicant hopes to achieve in his/her college career, including educational, professional, and personal goals.
5. Two letters of recommendation from teachers, school administrators, and/or community leaders.
6. The most current IRS form 1040 signed by parent(s) or legal guardian must be included for applicants of Coast Guard civilian employees (NAF & APF) and Coast Guard Auxiliary members in order to verify eligibility.

Applications are available on-line at www.uscg.mil/mwr (click on scholarship opportunities) or by sending a letter-size, self-addressed stamped envelop to: The CGES Scholarship Committee, Coast Guard Exchange System Headquarters, 870 Greenbrier Circle, Suite 502, Chesapeake, VA 23320-2681.

The CGES scholarship Committee, consisting of five members from the Tidewater area, designated by the Chief, Office of Exchange and Morale, will evaluate all applications and select the scholarship awardees.

CGES scholarship winners will be notified not later than May by mail. Checks will be made out to the college's financial departments to credit the students account.

The point of contact for the CGES scholarship is Mark Carscallen at (757) 420-2480, ext 3010.

Keiser College Scholarship

To show support for the men and women of the United States Coast Guard, Keiser College has generously made available two scholarships to active duty Coast Guard enlisted members. These off-duty education scholarships, administered by the Coast Guard Foundation, are valued by Keiser College at \$113,000.00. The selected students may attend college at one of thirteen Keiser campuses located throughout the state of Florida or may earn certain degrees fully online through the Keiser College e-campus. Keiser College is a regionally accredited school and offers a full range of undergraduate degrees in several majors.

Criteria for selection, the application process, and an application form can be found on the Keiser College website at <http://www.keisercollege.edu/coastguard>. Scholastic promise, motivation, moral character, leadership qualities, and good citizenship are the major considerations for selection. The deadline for submitting the application form is 06 January 2006. Other components of the application package must be received by 20 January 2006.

Scholarship recipients will be notified via telephone and email on 03 February 2006 and classes will start on 27 February 2006. For additional information, contact Keiser College admissions at 1-866-534-7371 or email admissions@keisercollege.edu.

Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Scholarship

The Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation announces the availability of its 2006 scholarships. The program was created to recognize the contributions and sacrifices military families make to ensure the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military community. The scholarship program is administered by the non-profit Fisher House Foundation, best known for building and managing living quarters on the grounds of major military installations and veterans affairs medical centers so family members can be close to hospitalized loved ones.

More than three point two million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to military children during the past six years. Last year, five hundred scholarships were awarded. The Defense Commissary Agency and the Fisher House Foundation goal for 2006 is to award at least one \$1,500.00 for each commissary location worldwide.

These scholarships are for the sons and daughters of active duty members from all services, reserve/guard, or retired military personnel (including survivors of deceased members). Eligibility is open to unmarried dependants under the age of 23 who are currently enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) data base and have a current I.D. card.

Application Process:

1. Obtain, complete, and submit the "Scholarship for Military Children Program 2006Scholarship Application".
2. Provide a copy of transcripts or copy of grades
3. Provide short essay (not to exceed 500 words). The essay topic for 2006 is "If you could meet one great military leader, present day or historical, who would it be and why? Describe the qualities and leadership characteristics of that leader which have had the greatest influence on you".
4. Provide letter of recommendation.

Applications may be picked up at your local commissary or the application and specific qualification requirements can be downloaded from the Defense Commissary Agency website at www.commissaries.com at the "Scholarship for Military Children Program" link. No faxed or emailed applications will be accepted. Applications must be hand carried or mailed to the nearest commissary. Applicants may apply at one commissary only. Applications received at different commissary sites for the same applicant will render the applicant disqualified and none of his/her applications will be considered. Applications must be received at the commissary by close of business on February 22, 2006.

For additional information, contact Ms. Yvette Wright at 202-267-6728 or ywright@comdt.mil

TRAINING COURSE MATERIAL RE-TESTING POLICY

Effective immediately a twenty-one calendar day waiting period between test taking attempts for all end of course tests (EOCT) administered by the Coast Guard Institute including Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) and Advancement Qualification Exams (AQE). When authorized by the Reserve Policy Manual, the use of Readiness Management Period (RMP) will be considered to provide SELRES members the opportunity to retake EOCT/AQE within the same wait period as active duty members.

Excelsior College is offering a new Homeland Security Certificate Program.

TA Covers 100% of the tuition, and the Coast Guard Foundation Grant covers \$350.00 of the cost of books and fees. This program has very little out of pocket expense for Enlisted members.

If you're interested in a career in Homeland Security, a new certificate program from Excelsior College can help you reach that goal. There's never a better time to pursue an opportunity to be part of this growing and vital field to ensure the safety and security of your country, its infrastructure, institutions, economy, and most important, its people.

The online Homeland Security Certificate will introduce you to domestic and international terrorism issues and strategies for countering terrorist threats. In addition, you'll learn ways to identify best practices for successful security planning and threat assessment. The key principles of emergency management and disaster planning will be presented as you learn to deal with both man-made and natural threats.

I've added a link and FAQs below.

https://www.excelsior.edu/portal/page?_pageid=57,272935&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Free SAT/ACT Software for Military Families

A group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL and CFL football players is donating several million dollars worth of SAT and ACT test prep programs valued at \$199 each to families in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard for the school year 2005-2006. Through this sponsorship, active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and retired military personnel can obtain eKnowledge's \$199 SAT/ACT Standard Power Prep program(s) and the \$199 fee is waived. Families who request the program(s) pay only shipping & handling costs associated with the request. Servicemembers may

request as many programs as they need for the students in their lives.

The DoD has created a secure website through its Military Homefront site to quickly verify a person's military status before linking them to the software ordering site. To access the site, visit the Military Homefront website at

http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page?_pageid=73.46096&_dad=itc&_schema=PORTAL¤t_id=20.20.100.30.0.0.0.0.

GI BILL INCREASE

As of 01 October 2005 the GI Bill payment rate has increased to \$1030.00. Contact me if you have any further questions.

CWO FJ Wilson

Chaplain's MESSAGE

“The Light that Shines in the Darkness”

There are many topics I feel strongly about this holiday season, but I am not going to waste any breath or spill any ink over them at this time. What I do want to relay to each of you as we approach this blessed season is a sense of peace and goodwill. Frankly, I think we have all had our share of frazzled nerves and politically correct screaming matches. The last thing we need is for the Christmas/Holiday/Hanukkah/Ramadan/Winter Solstice/... season to turn into another opportunity for those on the left side of the aisle and those on the right side of the aisle to fight over who gets to bring out the Figgie pudding. After all, there is plenty of goodwill and cheer for everyone, by whatever name we wish to call it, and the whole point of the Christmas spirit is to bring glad tidings of peace and goodwill to men concerning a Savior who is being born. It wasn't the story of an angry God who enters the fabric of men's lives to rip them to shreds, but of a humble servant of a God who mends the fractured fabric of people's lives and restores the wholeness to life that leads to peace and prosperity.

I will have to work this Holiday Season to enter into that frame of mind, I can see that already.

It is so easy to get hooked into the ideological battles being waged and be consumed by anger and peevishness. It would be easy for me to spend all of my holiday season sending letters to the editor denouncing this group or that group and showing my support for what I feel is right.

This, however, would distract me from something more important and vital to my spiritual life this holiday season. Taking time to remember that once upon a time, light came into the darkness of the world and the darkness could not comprehend it. Although the world came into being through this marvelous light, the world did not recognize the light! And how did the light respond? Did it form a laser beam and destroy all of those who opposed it? No. The light shown for a short while, helping those it could to find their way and then graciously accepted being extinguished when others were tired of its illuminating effects.

Let's not waste our time fighting in the darkness. Instead, let's bath our minds in the light of whatever we hold dear and true wishing each other the best this season has to offer. In the language of my tradition that would be expressed as, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

V/r

Chaplain Primeaux

jprimeaux@gruvalveston.uscg.mil

(409) 766-5667

Obudsman

Hello MSST families,

I hope you are all well and enjoying your holidays so far. I know that a lot of our Coasties are gone for the month and wanted to share something that might be helpful. I recently tried out an hourly daycare on Bay area Blvd. I believe that there is one on Galveston Island also. It is called Gimmie a break www.gimmieabreak.com 281-554-5000. The hours are Mon-Thu 8 AM – 11 PM Fri 8 AM – 2 AM and Sat 9 AM – 2 AM. Reservations are required. It costs more for infants, but they do give you a discount for having more than one child there, and you can buy packages of 10 hrs for \$40. I have only had my little one there once, but he had a great time. With your significant others gone, it is nice to have another option during this busy time. I plan to use them so that I can go the Christmas party.

For those of you who have someone who was just sent to New Orleans for the month of Dec, we will be able to send out care packages again. Packages can be dropped off at the unit or to my home, the same as last time. I assume that supply runs will run fairly regularly like they did before, I don't have exact dates. In order to give them the nicest Christmas possible under the current circumstances, it would be nice too, if we all

contribute to a holiday care package to go out to all of our MSST people in NO for Christmas. Candy, snacks, cards, something silly to make them smile, a note from one of your kids, comfort items and toiletries are a few ideas. Please contact me if you have any questions.

I also wanted to put an idea before you. It has been brought to my attention that we have several expectant mommies. When we were expecting our first little one and transferred to a new unit, away from all of our friends and families and only two months to go, the wives of our new unit threw me a baby shower within a week of our arrival. It was wonderful to have someone to stand in for my family to share our joy and offer their support. It would be great if we could do that for the mommies of our unit too. I would appreciate everyone's participation, and welcome any help to make this happen.

Finally, I need to let you know that this may be my last contribution to the newsletter as we are due to transfer in the spring. If anyone is interested in taking over the role of Ombudsman, please contact me and I can go over any questions you might have. I am sure that whoever follows me will find it to be a positive and rewarding experience; it certainly has been for me.

Be sure to check my new list of things to do.

Take care, Blessings on you and your loved ones, and Merry Christmas,

Stephanie
OmbMSST91104@aol.com
409-771-4377

Pipkin

LOCAL EVENTS

Ongoing

Yale Street Arts and Flower Market - Houston - 1st Saturdays - Live entertainment
<http://www.yalestreetmarket.com/>

Bayou City Farmers' Market - 3000 Richmond, Houston - 4:00PM - 7:00PM every Wednesday and Saturday - Fresh local produce and other goods every week at the Bayou City Farmers' Market. You'll find anything from free range eggs to handmade soaps. A true producers' market, only goods grown or handmade by the vendors are sold -- nothing is imported.
Phone: 713-880-5540.

Museum of Health & Medical Science Houston - By You City A new permanent exhibit for kids. Dynamic Dissections are held Thursday through Sunday. Free

Family Thursdays subjects include Sights, Sound and Smells, and Safety Town, featuring a live puppet show. (713) 521-1515 <http://www.mhms.org/>

SE Houston Playgroup: Mom and Me - Friendswood - Free Craft Activities for Kids (Ages 3 and Up) Every Saturday!
<http://playgroup.meetup.com/53/events/?action=pastlist>

Downtown Entertainment District Main Event - Special events? Try the Main Event—every weekend. Live music? Hear it here. High-energy dance clubs? We've got the beat. Global cuisine? Eat up. And when you're ready to call it a night, you'll also find the city's most stylish hotels. Come on down and check us out. Because the Downtown Entertainment District is not only the heart of the city, it's the center of it all.
<http://www.deda.org/events/>

December

Canoe Tours - Apr 17-Dec 17 - All canoe trips are guided by National Parks outfitter Don A. Greene of Whitewater Experience. Don is an award- winning outfitter with over 30 years of experience working in Houston to preserve Buffalo Bayou. All trips include canoe rental, paddles, shuttles, personal flotation devices and snacks. Under normal water conditions, only minimal experience or skill is necessary to enjoy these floats. 713-752-0314.

Diana, A Celebration - Houston Museum of Natural Science - Oct 21-Feb 5 - This special exhibition chronicles the life of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. The exhibition presents her through objects ranging from her royal wedding gown and 28 of her designer dresses to family heirlooms, personal mementoes, paintings and rare home movies and photos. 713-639-4629
<http://www.hmns.org/>

Princess Party - Nov 27- Dec 18 - Every little girl dreams of being a princess. The fairy tale comes true with three castle-shaped moonwalks at the entrance to the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Dads can entertain their little princesses outside while Mom tours the special exhibition Diana, A Celebration. Princess Party is free to the public; tickets for the exhibition can be purchased at the box office. 713-639-4629
<http://www.hmns.org/>

The Nutcracker - Nov 25-Dec. 26 -Wortham Center, Houston -Houston Ballet's lavish production of *The Nutcracker* signals the start of the holiday season. The original toy story, this charming holiday ballet is a

perennial treat. 713-227-ARTS.
<http://www.houstonballet.org/>

Jingle Jaunts - Houston - Nov 25-Dec 31 - Discover Houston tour guides will lead you on a two-and-a-half hour walking and MetroRail 'Jingle Jaunt' featuring downtown building decorations, the fountains at Main Street Square, the City Hall Christmas Tree and a jolly ride on MetroRail. Tours begin and end at Cabo Mex Restaurant, 419 Travis Street, and are by advance reservation only, Fri.-Sat. 7PM, 7:30PM and 8PM. **Phone:**713-222-9255
<http://www.discoverhoustontours.com/>

Holiday Lights in Hermann Park - Houston - Nov. 26-Dec. 26 - One of Houston's favorite holiday traditions is the walking tour through Hermann Park. Eager families and couples out for a romantic stroll can enjoy an expanded route this year which includes the recently renovated Reflection Pool. Marvel at the thousands of lights throughout the park and recharge with a light snack, coffee or cocktails at the Holiday Lights Cafe. Rent a pedal boat with special holiday lights. Cost is \$10 for a 30-minute jaunt around the lake. Horse-drawn carriage rides will also be provided throughout the festival. 713- 845-1000 <http://www.hermannpark.org/>

Galleria Ice Skating Center - Galleria Mall Houston - After an afternoon of holiday shopping, do a few spins under the 65-foot Christmas tree. Public sessions run daily, and skaters of every skill level are welcome. It isn't uncommon to see young figure skaters in full costume twirling in the center of the rink, while less sure-footed skaters hug the outside walls. 713-621-1500
<http://www.houstoncl.com/shopping/galleria.htm>

Pictures with Santa - Kemah - Dec 1-Dec 23 - Have your child's memorable picture taken with Santa while revealing their wish lists at the Kemah Boardwalk. 281-334-9880 <http://www.kemahboardwalk.com/>

Scrooge, The Musical - Dec 2-3 - Grand Opera House Galveston - *Scrooge, The Musical* presented on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8pm, December 2-3. *Scrooge, The Musical* revives the most beloved of all Christmas stories to a joyous beat. Join the tale's vibrant characters as they take center stage for an evening of song, dance, and tongue-in-cheek humor.
<http://www.galveston.com/timeless/>

Dickens on The Strand - Galveston - Dec 2-4 - Galveston's Victorian past comes to life with period entertainment, costumed participants and hearty British fare in the Strand National Historic District. The Galveston Historical Foundation recreates Queen

Victoria's London for the Southwest's most charming holiday celebration. <http://www.dickensonthestrand.org/>

George Observatory - Brazos Bend State Park - Dec 3-Jan28 - Be one of the first to view the beauties of the night sky through the George Observatory's newest telescope, a world-class, 11-inch F/15 refractor, recently mounted on the existing 36-inch Gueymard telescope, one of the largest in the country available for public viewing. The Observatory is located in Brazos Bend State Park and is open on Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Viewing starts at nightfall. 281-242-3055
<http://www.hmns.org/>

Christmas in Rosenberg - Rosenberg - Dec. 3 - Stroll the streets of historic Rosenberg on December 3, 2005 when Downtown Rosenberg is once again transformed into the Christmas season of 1883 – the year the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railway Company laid out a town site now known as Rosenberg. 832-595-3520
<http://www.rosenbergtourism.com/>

Annual Holiday Market with Santa Claus - Houston - Weekends - Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 - Traders Village turns into a holiday wonderland of shopping, family fun, festive foods and pictures made with the jolly old elf himself... Santa Claus! Free to the public, parking \$2. 281-890-5500 <http://www.tradersvillage.com>

Holiday in the Park - League Park in Historic League City. - **Dec 3- 4** - Grand Night Parade, Santa at the Gazebo, arts and crafts, entertainment, food vendors, puppet shows, and much more. 281-332-0157
www.holidayinthepark.org

Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship - Houston - Dec. 3 - Cheer on the top teams in college football's Big 12 Conference as the big game returns to Reliant Stadium. Come early to take part in *The Main Event!* Dec. 2, when downtown's weekend street party gets even bigger with live music on outdoor stages and plenty of entertainment leading up to the game. 832-667-1400
<http://big12sports.collegesports.com/>

Candlelight Tours - Houston - Dec. 9-10 - The Heritage Society of Houston treats visitors to special tours of the historical homes in Sam Houston Park, each decked out with seasonal decorations reminiscent of a century ago, while costumed carolers and musicians offer a serenade for the season. <http://www.heritatesociety.org/>

Winter Wild at the Houston Zoo - Dec 9-11 & Dec 1-18 - Step out of the tropics and into a holiday fantasyland when the Houston Zoo lights up the holidays with the second annual Winter Wild Festival of Lights

from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. each evening. The Houston Zoo will be transformed into a winter wonderland with music of the season, delicious holiday treats from Ms. Claus's Kitchen and a unique "Sea Lions in Winter" show, all bathed in the glow of more than 500,000 spectacular twinkling lights. 713-533-6500
<http://www.houstonzoo.org/>

44th Annual Christmas Boat Parade - Clear Lake – Dec 10 - More than 100 beautifully lighted and extravagantly decorated boats travel leisurely through the Lake and up Clear Creek Channel to Galveston Bay, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The parade can be viewed along the shoreline in Seabrook and Kemah. Admission: Free; \$35 for boat entry 7:00 pm-10:00 pm 281-488-7676
www.clearlakearea.com

Seasons of Sharing - The Children's Museum of Houston - Dec 10-Jan. 8 - The city's only multicultural holiday exhibit spotlighting eight cultural celebrations: Ramadan, Diwali, Santa Lucia, Los Posadas, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and Chinese New Year. Phone 713-522-1138
<http://www.cmhouston.org/>

The Nutcracker - Dec 10-11 - Grand Opera House Galveston - *The Nutcracker* will continue its annual tradition Saturday and Sunday, December 10-11.
<http://www.galveston.com/timeless/>

22nd Annual Chevron Jingle Bell Run and Walk - Houston - Dec 11 - Includes a 5-mile course for competitive runners, a 3-mile course for families and a 1-mile course for kids. Spectators come from all over the Gulf Coast region to watch the colorful event where almost 5,000 participants compete for both speed and best costume prizes. Proceeds benefit thousands of youths and seniors who participate in the Downtown YMCA Programs. 713-758-9295
<http://www.jinglebellrun.org/>

Texas Championship Pow Wow - Traders Village Houston - Dec 12-13 - Native Americans representing dozens of tribes celebrate their culture and heritage. Dancers in full traditional dress perform as artisans, craftsmen and traders share their talents and wares. 281-890-5500; www.tradersvillage.com.

A Tuna Christmas - Grand 1894 Opera House Galveston - Dec 13-18 - A Lone Star version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas. The revered comedy writing/performing team of Joe Sears and Jaston Williams--Texas good ol' boys and affectionate satirists who impersonate some dozen Lone Star "types" each, male and female, in split-second quick changes--wishes

the Tuna lot happy holidays. 409-765-1894
<http://www.thegrand.com/calendar.asp>

Handel's Messiah - Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion Houston - Dec 16-Dec 18 - The Houston Symphony presents an awe-inspiring Houston tradition that continues with Christopher Seaman leading Houston's premier performance of Handel's masterwork, including the Hallelujah Chorus. 713-224-7575
<http://www.houstonsymphony.org/>

Festival of Lights - Moody Garden Galveston - Dec 19-Jan 7 - One of the largest presentations of Christmas lights in southeast Texas. Phone 800-582-4673
<http://www.moodygardens.com/>

EV1.net Houston Bowl - Houston - Dec 31 - Be at Reliant Stadium 1:30 p.m. when the TCU Horned Frogs take on a top opponent from the Big 12 Conference! Plus, there's a huge downtown block party Friday with KTRH, tailgating at the stadium and lots more leading up to the big game. 832-667-2695
<http://www.ev1houstonbowl.net/>

January

17th CY-FAIR HLSR BBQ & CHILI COOK OFF – Traders Village - Jan 7 & 8 - January is going to be hot as a jalapeno at Traders Village as they dish up two days of spicy chili, barbecue, brisket, and chicken to benefit the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Educational Fund. Saturday's competitions include Jackpot Pinto Beans, Junior Chili, Adult Chili, Fajitas and Showmanship. Sunday will feature entries looking to be named the best in Chicken, Pork Ribs and Brisket categories. Trophies are awarded for 1st - 3rd Places in each category, except Master Cook 1st and Best 1st only. Gates open for shopping at 9 a.m. Cookoff activities begin at 12 noon. Admission free to the public, parking is only \$2. 281-890-5500
<http://www.tradersvillage.com>

Houston Marathon. - Houston - Jan 16 - About 15,000 participants will race through the streets of Houston with the support of over 200,000 spectators and 5,000 event volunteers. Whether you come to the Houston Marathon to run the HP Houston Marathon, Aramco Houston Half Marathon, or Houston Press 5K, join the crowd and watch the race, or volunteer your time everyone is sure to have a fun and exciting time at the Houston Marathon. The jump rope squads, belly dancers, tuba players, marching bands, cheerleaders, and other members of the Hoopla Brigade are sure to keep everyone entertained throughout the day. 713-957-3453

http://www.visithoustontexas.com/houston_marathon.asp

February

Mardi Gras - Galveston - Feb 17-28 - Each year, more than half a million people gather in the streets of Galveston Island to participate in the largest Mardi Gras celebration in Texas. For 12 days and 11 nights the island is electrified by the sounds of live music, spectacular parades, elaborate masked balls, and flamboyant costumes.
<http://www.mardigrasgalveston.com/> [Mardi Gras! Galveston Lets the Good Time Roll](#)

Rodeo Uncorked! Grand Wine Tasting & Best Bites Competition - Reliant Park Houston - Feb 27 - Featuring hundreds of wines from around the world, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's lavish wine tasting and appetizer competition delights and dazzles the palate. The Champion Wine Auction & Dinner, March 4, raises money for scholarships. 832-667-1177
<http://www.rodeohouston.com/events/winecompetition.aspx>

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Parade - Reliant Center Houston - Feb. 28-March 19 - The world's largest rodeo, this showcase of Texas traditions boasts great size, style and sizzle. Don't miss the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest, thrilling of rodeo action, a fantastic variety of superstar concerts and fun for the entire family. Thousands of trail riders descend upon the city from hundreds of miles around to kick off Houston's annual tribute to Texas' traditions. The colorful procession downtown includes marching bands, dignitaries and imaginative floats. 832-667-1000
www.rodeohouston.com

March

River Oaks Garden Club's Azalea Trail.- Houston - Early March - It's just not spring until the azaleas are in bloom. The gardens at Bayou Bend, the former residence of philanthropist Ima Hogg, are particularly spectacular. The rest of "the trail" tours blooming landscapes in the adjacent River Oaks neighborhood. Tour **Bayou Bend's 14 acres of gardens, the Rienzi estate and private River Oaks gardens.** 713-523-2483
www.riveroaksgardenclub.org.

17th ANNUAL AUTO SWAP MEET- Houston - March 18-19 - Sponsored by the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America. More car stuff than you've ever seen in one place will be on display and for sale during the Traders Village 17th ANNUAL AUTO SWAP MEET, There

will be over 800 swap meet dealers on hand with over one million car parts and accessories, plus all types of classic and antique cars and trucks on display. Browse through booths filled with old, new and used automobile parts, paraphernalia and more memorabilia. If you're a car enthusiast looking for something unique, this Auto Swap Meet is the place for you. 8:00 a.m. to Dusk. Free to the public, parking \$2. 281-890-5500
<http://www.tradersvillage.com>

RESERVES

On 12 November 2005 LTjg Chuck Walsh relieved LT Robert Ream as the unit's Reserve Executive Officer. As a Plankowner, LT Ream was instrumental in establishing the unit's reserve program. During his tenure the reserves augmented our active duty sections on notable deployments such as the G8 Summit and Operation Secure Tomorrow in Haiti. The unit would like to wish LT Ream the best in his new job with the FIST at MSO Houston.



LTjg Walsh relieves LT Ream as Reserve XO

Hi everyone I'm Lieutenant Junior Grade Charles "Chuck" Walsh. I was born in Lochgilphead, Scotland and grew up in Galveston, Texas. I graduated from the Alvin Community College Law Enforcement Academy in 1991 and the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. I was commissioned through the ROCI program in June 2003 and reported to MSU Galveston where I served as Investigating Officer and then Assistant Senior Investigating Officer. I served on Title X from February 2004 to September 2005.

In my civilian job, I work for the Galveston County Sheriff's Office. My career with the Sheriff's Office began in 1992 when I was appointed as the Assistant Director for the Beach Patrol Division.

In 1998, I was promoted to Lieutenant and appointed to my current position as Commanding Officer for the Sheriff's Marine Division. As Marine Division Commander, I'm responsible for coordination, oversight and direction of all Sheriff marine enforcement and dive operations. Under my command, the Dive Team evolved from a handful of deputies that had an interest in diving and used their personal equipment; to a professionally trained unit with agency issued equipment. Dive operations have included the recovery of weapons, vehicles, bodies, and other items that have led to the successful prosecution of burglaries, homicides, and insurance fraud.

Following the terrorist attacks in 2001, my unit played a key role in coordinating efforts between U.S. Coast Guard Group Galveston and the Galveston County Sheriff's Office to enhance maritime safety in the Galveston and Texas City harbors. We often worked alongside the U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Naval Criminal Investigative Service in planning, coordinating, and directing the local law enforcement waterborne force protection efforts for U.S. warships and other vessels of interest that visit Galveston.

I reported onboard MSST Galveston in November 2005 as the Reserve Executive Officer. I live in Jamaica Beach (Galveston) with my wife Leigh, and three children – Claire (age 7), Grace (age 4), and Charlie (8 months).

I look forward to meeting and working with everyone. I can be reached at 409-939-1019 or email chuck.walsh@co.galveston.tx.us

Departures

The Command would like to wish "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to our departing personnel:

PS2 Leland Kidd – U.S. Army
PS2 Robert Mireles – End of EAD contract
MK3 Eric Rhoden – RELAD



PS2 Robert Mireles



MK3 Eric Rhoden

AWARDS

The Command would like to congratulate the following people who received recognition during the last quarter.

Coast Guard Achievement Medal & Coast Guard Team Award

BM1 David Ramirez was cited for outstanding achievement while assigned to Station Miami Beach, FL.



BM1 David Ramirez

Commandant's Letter of Commendation

HS2 Frederico Sanchez was cited for his performance while TAD at SMTC in support of the Tactical Training Course.



HS2 Frederico Sanchez

Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal

BM3 Troy Simoes earned the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal (1st award).



BM3 Troy Simoes

Coast Guard Boat Forces Insignia

BMC Ty Farrell completed the prerequisites to earn the Coast Guard Boat Forces Insignia (permanent), while BMC Sean Arndt, MK2 Harry Little, and BM3 Stanley Kabzinsky earned the Coast Guard Boat Forces Insignia (temporary).



BMC Ty Farrell



MK2 Harry Little, LT Ream & BMC Sean Arndt

Iron Sailor Award

As part of the unit's commitment to physical fitness an "IRON SAILOR" award was established for personnel who meet the following conditions during the Commands semi-annual physical fitness test:

- Attain a cumulative score of 80 points.
- Scoring at least 10 points on the push-ups, sit-ups, 12 minute swim, and half mile run.
- Scoring at least 5 points on the pull-ups and sit & reach.

The following personnel earned the Iron Sailor Award:

LTjg Loreleigh Whiteside
MK2 John Elder
MK3 Chris Clevenger
BM3 Greyson Vetter
EM3 Anthony Mascitelli

BM1 Bryan Hirn
YN2 Kelly Lizama
MK3 Jeff Marshall
GM3 Ryan Whitely



Iron Sailor Award Recipients

A big HOO YAH to BM2 David Partin and MK3 Jeff Marshall for graduating Navy Dive School.



New Divers MK3 Jeff Marshall & BM2 David Partin

NEW EDITIONS

On 15 November Nikki Hughes, wife of our Operations Officer, LT Sean Hughes, gave birth to Zachary Donevon Hughes at Clear Lake Regional Medical Center (5lbs 4oz). The family is doing great and wanted to pass along their thanks for the gift basket. As of printing Zachary was still in the hospital due to low birth weight. He is forecasted to come home soon.

